

Remarks

Applicants have deleted lines 5 to 10 of page 14 of the specification thereby removing from the specification the statement relied on so heavily by the Examiner throughout the prosecution of this application to broadly construe the claims limitations so as to render many of them meaningless in light of the prior art of record. Applicants hope that deletion of this part of the specification will lead to the claims limitations being construed in their own right giving the words of the claims their ordinary meaning and not the broadest possible (as opposed to the broadest reasonable) construction as has been the case to date.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Each of independent claims 1, 11, 22 and 23 has been amended to define the relationship between the source and the user *such that a user of the telephony apparatus at the source is not required to operate the telephony apparatus at the source at said future specified time to establish the telephone call*.

Applicants maintain as entirely pertinent the submissions made in previous responses dealing with the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the combination of Summers et al (US6976734) and Linden et al (US6549773) and requests that these be reconsidered as part of this response. It is clear from the description in Summers with respect to figure 7 of the process occurring once the conference start time (future specified time) has arrived that manual intervention is required to establish the conference call. There are two methods for a conference participant to join the conference call. One is a dial-in method requiring the conference participant at their local telephony apparatus or the like to enter the conference telephone number or IP address, i.e. manually intervene, and to then enter other information to authenticate the participant, column 11, line 37 to column 12, line 9. The other method of joining comprises a 'dial-out' method whereby a conference moderator enters at his/her telephony apparatus or the like

the telephone number or IP address of a participant to be called, column 12, lines 26 to 43. In this case, the moderator must first dial in, i.e. manually intervene, to the conference call in the manner of the dial-in method described above before being able to use the dial-out method to join other participants to the conference call. Therefore, it is beyond any doubt that in making a call (whether telephony or IP connection) to 'dial-in' or 'dial out' by way of joining the conference call requires manual entry of information at a source telephony or similar apparatus. This is true even for the dial-out method where the moderator must first dial in. Furthermore, in all cases, the person (i.e. participant or conference moderator) entering the telephone number or IP address (i.e. conference bridge or participant) is a user of a *source* telephony apparatus. This is a logical extension of the Examiner's argument that *at least one user of the apparatus does not need to operate the apparatus for the telephone call*, although the term "for" should be read as "to establish". Of course, a person receiving a call initiated by a user at a source telephony apparatus does not need to operate the telephony apparatus at the destination to establish or at least initiate establishment of the call. It could be argued, however, that the user at the destination does need to operate the apparatus at the destination to receive the call. Otherwise, how would the call connection be completed if the destination device was not lifted 'off-hook', for example.

In any event, Summers does not disclose the step of instructing a telephony apparatus at the source to automatically establish a telephone call over the communications network from the source to the destination specified in the URI such that a user of the telephony apparatus at the source is not required to operate the telephony apparatus at the source at said future specified time to establish the telephone call. This feature is not disclosed or suggested by any of the other references of record.

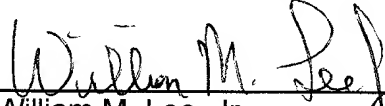
New claim 26 is directed to a method of establishing a telephony conference call but mirroring the steps of the method of claim 1. Therefore, the foregoing submission is

equally applicable to new claim 26. No additional fees are required since appropriate fees for total and independent claims have already been paid.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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